

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-86. (*Canceled*)

87. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank, said method comprising:

    providing a longitudinal glass tube,

    providing a longitudinal mold having a flat sided polygonal shape,

    positioning said longitudinal glass tube proximate said longitudinal mold,

    heating said longitudinal glass tube,

    applying a deforming fluid pressure to said heated longitudinal glass tube  
wherein said glass tube deforms and conforms to said mold,

    cooling said deformed glass tube to provide a flat sided polygonal shaped  
glass tube, and

    cutting a flat side from said flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube.

88. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein  
providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a SiO<sub>2</sub> soot tube and  
consolidating the soot tube into a glass.

89. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein  
providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes depositing SiO<sub>2</sub> soot on a support  
member.

90. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein  
providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a silicon oxyfluoride  
glass tube.

91. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a glass tube comprised of silicon dioxide.

92. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a high purity fused silica glass tube.

93. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said glass tube with said mold and expanding said glass tube into contact with said mold.

94. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said mold with said glass tube and collapsing said glass tube onto said mold.

95-101. (*Canceled*)

102. (*Original*) A method of making a low OH silicon oxyfluoride glass blank said method comprising

    providing a  $\text{SiO}_2$  soot

    exposing said soot to a chlorine containing atmosphere to remove OH from said soot

    terminating exposure to said chlorine atmosphere

    flushing residual chlorine from the soot

    consolidating said soot into a silicon oxyfluoride glass having an OH level less than 1 ppm.

103. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a He containing atmosphere.

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104. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a F containing atmosphere.